

Be humane!

Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

To Whom It May Concern:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines issued April 6, 1999 instituted a *de facto* ban on nonhuman primate xenografts because they would expose patients and the public to "significant infectious disease risk." But these guidelines failed to address dangers with other species. Transgenic pigs are the source animals of choice for xenotransplants despite the existence of over 25 diseases in pigs that can affect humans.

Endogenous Retroviruses, paramyxovirus, and the new "Nipah" virus in Malaysia that infected over 250 humans, killed 100, and led to the slaughter of some 1 million pigs.

investing heavily in preventative medicine programs to reduce the need for transplants of all kinds and increasing the pool of human organs.

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Sincerely,

Wd.

Rutelman

99D-0557

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